Numb. 45.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, December the 6th. 1681.

Jeſt. NOw, I hope, I ſhall hear my Indictment out, you feed me with a Bit and a Knock, I love to ſee the worſt on't.

Earn. I gave you two Articles before, and thought them as much as you could well carry away with you; for I don't much like the way of a certain Diſſenting Tubſter, who told his Audience, he would for the help of their memories divide the Obſervations he ſhould make from his Text, into forty eight particulars, which in my opinion were too many at once for any one hearer's memory, and perhaps the Gentleman himſelf knew nothing of forty of them, but truſted the Spirit, by which either by hook or by crook, he made out his number.

Jeſt. You can never let their Gravities alone, pray what's the next Article againſt us?

Earn. Truly, the next Article is ſo long, that if I ſhould give it you all, 'twould be too much of the *Crambe bis cocta*; let it ſuffice you that it was put in partly to make a ſhow, and partly out of a private pique, our Diſcourſe having been at that time concerning *Conſcientious Tricks*, *Cunning Conſciences*, *Diſſenting Proteſtants*, *Papiſts*, *Rebels under a Cloak of Religion*, *Blue-Apron-Stateſmen* and the like.

Jeſt. Prethee man, how came this into the Indictment? if any man think himſelf toucht by any of theſe appellations, methinks 'twould have been properer to have brought his Action, than to come like the Horſe-T—— among the Apples, and tell us we have ſinned *contra Dominum Regem, Communes in Parl. aſſemblat. & Juratores!*

Earn. You are ſomewhat in the right, but we muſt take it as we find it; the next ſeems indeed to relate to the Publick, and conſiſts of three Queries, wherein you'l find the words *Parliament*, and *Houſe of Commons*, but without any diſhoneſt Reflection on either: they are theſe.

I. "Whether they who are our fellow-Subjects "and our Servants, and by Law are appointed "*Wages*, ought to take it upon them not only as if "they were ours, but our GREAT MASTERS "Maſters?

II. "Whether if Diſſenters will importune the "King by Petitions for a New Parliament, they will "do their weak endeavour to chuſe him a New "Houſe of Commons?

III. "Whether Diſſenting Proteſtants are more "deſirous of a Parliament that will proſecute the "horrid Popiſh Plot, or Repeal the 35th. of *Eliz.* "and other Penal Laws againſt Diſſenters, and pull "down the Church of *England* by reducing the Biſhops, according to the Speech of a worthy Knight, "recorded by *Fr. Smith*, to the primitive condition "of *Timothy* and *Titus*, that is, to be poor and proſecuted (inſtead of *perſecuted*) and next door to "*Root* and *Branch*?

Jeſt. Well and what of all this? Why did not they anſwer theſe Queſtions? This is juſt as if the Scribes and Phariſees had been ſent for to *Rome* for making their Query, *Is it lawful to pay Tribute to Cæſar or not?*

Earn. Nay you are unreaſonable to expect any other anſwer than an Indictment, now the *Ignoramé* are in power; for look ye, as to the firſt Query, they dare not anſwer in the Affirmative, becauſe we were ſo lately ruin'd that way; nor in the Negative, for fear of ſnapping a Privilege: To the ſecond, they cannot ſay Yea, becauſe all the world knows 'twould be falſe; if they ſay No, it ſhews the Nonſenſe of their demands: To the laſt indeed they will be apt to ſay they had both the ends mentioned, but 'tis vilely ſuſpected (if Intentions may be beſt collected from Words and Actions) that the laſt with all the aggravation was their main deſign.

Jeſt. Enough of this and too much. What comes next?

Earn. Why the next two Articles look big and bluſtring, but amount to no more than to ſhew that ſome men would have us ſo much Papiſts as to have an implicit faith in ſomewhat that is neither Law nor Goſpel. We had been talking of the Vote concerning the Trial of *Fitz-Harris*, and we took upon us harmleſly to conſider what would be the natural conſequences of it, if it ſhould have obtained a legal force. But in this caſe belike we may not uſe our Reaſons.

Jeſt. If we may not, there have ſince been theſe that have out of their love to our true Liberties and Laws, weigh'd this Vote in the Balance of the Sanctuary, and found it too light.

Earn. Well but we are ſaid to have done this "to the great diſturbance of the Peace of our Lord "the King, for a bad example to all other Delinquents in like caſe, and contrary to the Peace of "our ſaid Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity.

Jeſt. Good God! *Quis tulerit Gracchos de ſeditione querentes?* How fond they are of the Kings Crown and Dignity? Have a good heart, if they are ſo good Subjects as they pretend, I'le warrant we come off well enough. Prethee let's leave reckoning till our Hoſt come, and turn to the World a little; how go ſquares there?

Earn. The Whiggs are triumphant now; not

an

an honeſt Tory dare peep out; nothing but Bonfires and *Io Pæans*, for the victory ſome men have gotten over their Conſciences.

Jeſt. The French King then I perceive is not the only Conqueror, and we may have ſome hopes of ſtopping his Progreſs in the *Netherlands*, if one Brigade of theſe brazen-heads would tranſport themſelves for the ſake of the Proteſtant Religion.

Earn. But whoſoever may rejoyce, I can ſhew you one little Yelper that Nonconforms to the whole Party, and amidſt all this glee he calls himſelf *Democritus Flens*, I met with the Wretches laſt work t'other day in a neceſſary houſe, and at firſt bluſh I found ſome Rhimes: Alas, thought I, Mr. *Baxter*'s Rhapſodies have had a quick Circulation, to come to their journeys end already. But upon further examination I found 'um to be the Ape's nown Poetry (as far as I could gheſs) and to have ſo much in them extraordinary, that I cannot but ſeriouſly adviſe him to get Mr. *Jenkins* to turn them into Latin, for the benefit of Forein Nations; his Muſe and that of our ſmall Poet being much of a ſize.

Jeſt. I have ſeen ſomewhat under that Title, and always took it to be *Comus* and *Momus* awaken'd again at the noiſe the Whiggs of late have made, and that he cry'd for joy, as you know ſome weak people do ſometimes. But does he ſay any thing to us?

Earn. Yes, he fumbles miſerably, but tells us at laſt, *If there be any unfair or illegal carriage among Juries, let the Law decide it.* Now he knows no man can ſay any thing againſt our late Juries; but this I ſay, it is poſſible there may be ſuch carriage, and yet the Law not have provided againſt it; for you know in the firſt Roman conſtitution there was no Law againſt Parricide, the firſt Inſtituters of that Government not ſuppoſing there would ever be ſuch a Villain in the world as would kill his Father; which later Legiſlators were forced to provide againſt. And this is all this ſucking Devil has ſaid that concerns us.

Jeſt. Well I perceive this Chittiface then muſt uſe ſome induſtry before he get any reputation for Whiggiſm, as *Quevedo*'s Taylors are fain to petition for a place in Hell. But is there no news from the Thingum in the *Old-Baily?*

Earn. Yes, yes, *Harry* finds the pence coming and he blunders on, ſometimes in and ſometimes out; pays off the Pope with pieces of Latine, which ſometimes, when he can, he Engliſhes, like *Non-eſt-inventus*, that is, my Lord, he is not to be found: but when he cannot he is quiet, and gives 'um to the world as they were delivered to him. In his laſt there's no great matter beſide a little kindneſs done for St. *Luke*'s Wife.

Jeſt. Truly he has done great things againſt Popery, and did deſerve ſomewhat of the commendation heretofore given him, but I never heard of any he has Converted or confirm'd.

Earn. He's like the reſt of the Party, who will never take Biſhop *Sanderſon*'s Rule of calling nothing Popery but what is ſo, and then of oppoſing that with leſs noiſe and more weight; which is the reaſon that the ſame Reverend man after ſeventy years of age profeſſes himſelf not to have known or remembred any one ſingle example of a Convert from Popery made by either Presbyterian or Independent, notwithſtanding all their clamour and zeal. And I doubt not if he had lived till this time he might have ſaid the ſame.

Jeſt. Nay now you are out, good Brother Earneſt, pray what do you think of the Doctor? is not he come over to the Diſſenters?

Earn. But, you know, he ſays he was never *truly* a Papiſt in his heart.

Jeſt. Nor truly of the Church of *England.*

Earn. Perhaps nor truly a Diſſenting Proteſtant. There may be a Query of the matter ſtill, notwithſtanding his Jump-Coat.

Jeſt. Now you talk of Queries, prethee let's have one or two.

Earn. Qu. 1. Whether *Care* is not a little out in his Parallels of the Juries of *Wakeman*, &c. with our late *Ignoramus*'s, thoſe having been put upon their Trials and ſtood them, a trouble which theſe never gave to the Indicted perſons?

2. Whereas he ſays, that "the Verdict of a Jury "is an eſſential point of Law, and that therefore "thoſe that go about to *Over-awe*, *Brow-beat*, or "*dare to hiſs* at the Verdict of a Jury, are enemies "to his Majeſty and the Conſtitution of the Go-"vernment, and endeavour as much as in them lies, "to ſubvert the Law and all the antient methods of "Juſtice, (which laſt line or two by the way look like the But-end of a Vote) I ſay, if inſtead of *Verdict of a Jury* he had ſaid *Evidence of a Witneſs*, whether ſo great a piece of Truth and Toryiſm would not have loſt his Reputation for ever with the Whiggs that were ſo ſcandalouſly ſtack'd about the Court t'other day, for the great end of hooping and hollowing?

3. Whether if a man be Suborned to bear falſe Witneſs at *London*, the ſame might not be done by the ſame perſons at *Oxford*, or any other place out of the Territories of *Whigg-land?* and whether the not doing ſo be not an irrefragable Argument againſt our Unbelievers?

4. Whether the late *Midſummer* thanks for the Peace and Quietneſs of the paſt year was not as much due to his Majeſties Guards as the perſons they were beſtowed on?

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHereas the Wives and Children of ſome Artificers have ſhew'd a deſire to kiſs the hands of the Prince of Whigg-land *ſince his Reſtauration, theſe are to give notice, that ſo ſoon as we underſtand that his Worthineſs hath ſetled his days of appearance in publick, we ſhall take the pains to let the world know it.*

London, Printed for *B. Tooke.* 1681.